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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,931	06/27/2003	Elliott R. Brown	P-US075-A-MG	8696

32107 7590 08/11/2006

MICROFABRICA INC.
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EXAMINER

GLENN, KIMBERLY E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2817

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/607,931	Applicant(s) BROWN ET AL.	
	Examiner Kimberly E. Glenn	Art Unit 2817	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2006.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 and 30-36 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 and 31-36 is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 30 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 6/27/03 & 2/2/04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/9/06</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

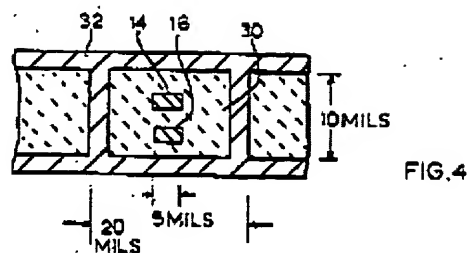
This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landis et al US Patent 4,647,878 in view of Garcia US Patent 5,455,545.

Landis et al disclose a coaxial shielded coupler. The coupler is fully shielded to eliminated noise or extraneous signals. The coupler is constructed by overlapping several conductive layers and dielectric layers. Landis et al also states in column 2 lines 33-42, that the coupler can be constructed using the micro coaxial structure as disclose in copending commonly assigned application 671,276 (now US Patent

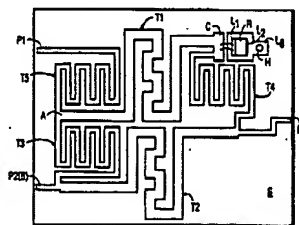
Art Unit: 2817

4,673,904) (See figures 2, 4 and 5a-5j and column 1; line 12 through column 3; line 10.)



Thus, Landis et al is shown to teach all the limitation of the claims with the exception of the coupler being a four-port hybrid coupler having a length of transmission line arranged in a serpentine form.

Garcia discloses in figure 2, a four-transmission line branch line coupler having a line formed in a meandering pattern.



One of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to replace the coupler of Landis with the analogous art coupler as taught by Garcia. The motivation for this modification would have been to provide art recognized equivalent coupling means.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-28 and 31-36 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: With regards to claims 1-28, 35 and 36, the prior art of record does not disclose or fairly teach the conductive structure includes one or more apertures which extend from the passage to an outer region, wherein the apertures have cross-sectional dimensions that are no larger than the greater of $1/10$ of a wavelength of the desired radiation or 200 microns and wherein the apertures are not intended to pass a significant amount of the desired radiation. With regards to claims 31-34, the prior art of record does not disclose or fairly teach depositing a plurality of adhered layers of material to form $(N/2)\log_2 N$ four port hybrid couplers each comprising four microminature coaxial elements, each coaxial element extending between a respective pair of ports of the hybrid coupler such that a pair of coaxial elements is coupled to each port; and connecting at least some of the hybrid couplers to other hybrid couplers via phase shifting components to form a Butler matrix.

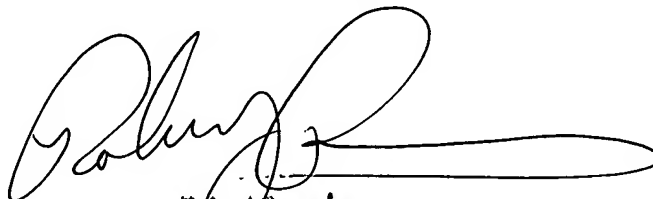
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly E. Glenn whose telephone number is (571)-272-1761. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 to 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pascal can be reached on (571)-272-1769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kimberly E Glenn
Examiner
Art Unit 2817

20060804 keg



Robert Pascal
Supervisory Patent Examiner
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